



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



269433

*Rec'd
5/21/01*

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

MAY 17 2001

C-14J

Via telecopier and regular mail

Mr. Robert G. Walton, Esquire
13111 Shaker Square
Suite 211
Cleveland, Ohio 44120

Re: Chemical Recovery Systems Site in Elyria, Ohio

Dear Bob:

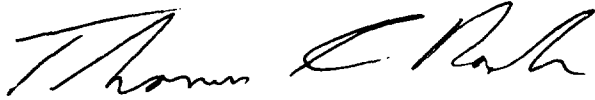
I just got your letter, dated May 10, 2001. Thanks, it was a pleasure to meet you, too. You asked me to give you several things:

1. A mailing sent earlier this week should satisfy your first request by providing copies of all documentary evidence which we have found thus far in the CRS records that shows your clients were involved at the site.
2. I've prepared a summary of what the witnesses we found so far said about pickups from Jamestown Paint, and I'm enclosing it in this letter. So far, we have no witness information on Beaver Paint.
3. I'm not prepared to give you a list of all our witnesses at this time. There are privacy act concerns and other concerns related to potential enforcement actions. That said, I do understand how you and all the other attorneys involved at this site may be interested in getting all the information they can and access to all sources of information. I have some ideas how we might collaborate as a group to ensure fair and equal access for all concerned to all information sources, documentary or otherwise. I will be exploring those at our meeting in Chicago, now scheduled for June 27, 2001.
4. I've asked one of the Civil Investigators assigned to this site to order some records from the Federal Record Center that may give us a place to start in looking for records of what was in the containers CRS was required to remove from the site pursuant to the RCRA consent decree and where those wastes were sent. We'll get a search started, but this may

take a while to produce results.

I hope to see you in Chicago in June. Please feel free to call me at 312-886-0552 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas C. Nash".

Thomas C. Nash
Associate Regional Counsel

enclosure

cc: Gwen Massenburg, SR-6J

- 1 A total of six Obitts Chemical Company/Chemical Recovery Systems, Inc. (Obitts/CRS) former employees, who were also truck drivers, stated that Jamestown Paint of Jamestown, New York and/or Pennsylvania, was a customer they and/or other truck drivers picked up hazardous materials from and transported to the Site for recycling. The truck drivers said that they delivered or may have delivered recycled materials to Jamestown Paint from the Site.

One of these truck drivers said that he considered Jamestown Paint and many other companies to be frequent Obitts/CRS customers as they each could have had two pickups of dirty chemicals per month and two deliveries of clean materials per month over a period from about the mid 1960's to the early 1980's. He said the amounts varied from full to partial tanker trailers.

Another of these truck drivers stated that Jamestown Paint was a major customer that had drums of dirty chemicals pumped out into tanker trailers. He and other Obitts/CRS truck drivers, together, picked up about one 6,000 gallon load from Jamestown Paint every two weeks or so and returned about 50%-60% after recycling during a period of about the early 1970's to early 1980's.

- 2 A total of four former administrative employees for Obitts/CRS identified Jamestown Paint of Jamestown, New York, or possibly another unknown location, as a customer that had hazardous materials sent to the Site for recycling, and possibly, returned to them after processing. Collectively, these former employees worked at the Site from about the late 1950's to the early 1980's.
- 3 A former still operator/laborer for Obitts/CRS during about two years in the mid 1970's identified Jamestown as a large customer that had hazardous materials sent to the Site for recycling.